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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Powell to officially ask for Turkish troops for Iraq -  
Milliyet  
General Abizaid: Iraq solution difficult without Turkey  
- Aksam  
General Abizaid: We can't succeed in Iraq without  
Turkey - Hurriyet  
Gul: U.S. has asked for Turkish troops for Iraq -  
Turkiye  
AKP lawmakers against sending troops to Iraq - Milliyet  
Two 'aces' killed in Mosul - Hurriyet  
Uday was known for torture, rape - Sabah  
Uzan family siphoned \$5 billion from Imarbank -  
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

General Abizaid: We need Turkish troops in Iraq -  
Radikal  
AKP lawmakers cold to Turkish troops for Iraq- Zaman  
Mahmud Osman: No need for Turkish soldiers in Iraq -  
Zaman  
Saddam's sons are killed - Cumhuriyet  
Blair losing popular support fast - Yeni Safak  
Shimon Peres: Jerusalem holy sites should be under UN  
control - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Turkish troops for Iraqi peacekeeping: CENTCOM Chairman  
General Abizaid pressed hard to convince Ankara to send  
troops to Iraq during his visit here last week.  
"Turkey is an essential factor in the region, and we  
need Turkish soldiers in Iraq," Abizaid reportedly  
said. Commentaries argue that the U.S. has ignored the  
Shiites and Sunnis who form the majority of the Iraqi  
population for the sake of cooperation with the Kurds.  
The U.S. request for Turkey's military support in Iraq  
has strengthened the hand of Ankara on the eve of  
Foreign Minister Gul's meetings in Washington.  
"Hurriyet" claims that Ankara has three conditions for  
cooperation in Iraq: that one of Bremer's two political  
assistants should be a Turk, that a Turkish Major  
General should assist General Abizaid, and that Iraq  
should have a single budget (i.e., a separate budget  
for the Kurds should be eliminated). Papers expect  
Secretary Powell to officially ask Gul on Thursday for

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Turkey's contribution to the Iraq stabilization force.

AKP confused about Iraqi peacekeeping: "Cumhuriyet"  
claims that the reluctance of AKP lawmakers and  
concerns in the TGS over deploying Turkish troops to  
Iraq have weakened the hand of FM Gul for his meetings  
in the U.S. A new motion for dispatching troops could  
lead to a new crisis in AKP. Cumhuriyet draws  
attention to the strong opposition within the AKP, led  
by Parliamentary Speaker Bulent Arinc.  
Denktas sacks dissident activists: Turkish Cypriot  
leader Denktas sacked leaders of two Turkish Cypriot  
civilian organizations working for a peaceful  
settlement on the divided island, "Radikal" reports.

The two organizations had refused to attend official ceremonies on July 20 marking the 29th anniversary of the Turkish military intervention in Cyprus. The Head of the Martyrs' Association was fired, and the president of the Migrants' Association lost his academic post at Eastern Mediterranean University.

Uzan-owned Imarbank fraud: The Banking Supervisory Board (BDDK) announced that most private accounts at Imarbank, which the Board recently seized from the Uzan family, had not been shown in the bank's records. The money stolen by the Uzans from Imarbank is about \$5 billion, according to press reports. The IMF's Turkey desk chief Riza Moghadam is closely monitoring the Board's actions on Imarbank.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraqi Stabilization Force/FM Gul to the US

"Sending troops"

Yilmaz Oztuna opined in the mass appeal-conservative *Turkiye* (7/23): "Turkey should send its troops to Iraq only as long as certain conditions are met. The Turkish army presence in Iraq will be a good symbol of Turkish nationalism. However, setting the UN decision as a precondition for that is not a realistic move on Turkey's part. This kind of approach will serve no purpose other than further deterioration in Turkish-American ties. Turkey will not be able to present a convincing argument about the need to wait for a UN decision on Iraq while ignoring existing UN resolutions on Cyprus. . Sending Turkish troops to Iraq will help us have a say in Iraqi restructuring and facilitate the reestablishment of the strategic alliance between Turkey and the US."

"FM Gul to Washington"

Fikret Bila wrote in mass appeal *Milliyet* (7/23): "Ankara is displeased with the structure of the Iraqi Governing Council. The representation of the Turkmen remains a worry for Ankara, and FM Gul is going to voice his concern during his meetings in Washington. . On the issue of sending Turkish troops to Iraq, Turkey does not want to play only a gendarme role, but also wants to gain influence over Iraq's restructuring. . The Gul visit will help both sides to understand each other better. FM Gul's tendency is not to drag on the issues, and he'd rather resolve some of the outstanding issues without losing time. The visit of FM Gul to Washington will also serve as a guide to Ankara's future policies."

"We should send troops to Iraq"

Gokalp Yildiz commented in the mass appeal-sensational *Aksam* (7/23): "Turkey's participation in the stabilization force should be taken without emotionalism. Turkey should be a part of the Stabilization Force, but this does not necessarily mean that Turkey would be protecting the US occupation. Turkey and US share common interests in Iraq despite recent disagreements. Turkey should make its plans based on its own security considerations. Thus, the Turkish military presence in Iraq serves Turkey's national security interests as well as regional stability. . Turkey shares a common history, culture and religion with the people of Iraq. Turkey has a more favorable position in the eyes of the Iraqi people than the Americans."

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